



PO Box 1765, Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-272-8170

www.piministries.info piministries@ncws.com
Eric and Penny email: epspim@ncws.com

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Dear Friends,

Valentine Yanak, a PIM teacher with 15 years under his belt, had a father Yanak who passed away ten to fifteen years ago. Yanak took polygamy in the Sepik River Valley to new heights, marrying 12 women.

The authorities in Ambunti threw him in jail, not because polygamy is illegal, but because taking wife #12 just seemed too selfish and greedy. If he had settled for ten, he would have been okay. Eric remembers visiting Yanak in jail in 1983 or '84.



Penny Schering meets with Valentine Yanak and his wife Carolyne.

Yanak and three or four of his wives have since died. Valentine, who is from Oum #2 village where he teaches, conducts a Sunday afternoon Bible Study for the eight surviving wives and their children. Others from the community who are interested in exploring God's Word often join them. Eric provided Valentine with some resources to help their study.

Eric and some of the teachers kiddingly address Valentine as "Pastor Valentine." He laughs and feels embarrassed because he's never been to Bible School or served as a pastor. "Pastor" Valentine says, "The village leaders are involved in worshipping images like stones and false prophets. Last year they collected five stones and made them into a

god." In early 2017 they were worshipping it and expecting money and cargo.

In a recent report he said, "In my village the people have traditionally worshipped ghosts or spirits represented by various idols. For years I prayed daily for my people that God would deliver them. And God answered my prayer. They no longer fear the evil spirits. They now know the God who is real and who has created the heavens and the earth."

"I teach the school children how to pray, to sing new songs and instruct them in the ten commandments. Teaching my students from the Bible also helps me to grow spiritually."

Give thanks for Valentine and his passion to see the church of Jesus Christ grow in Papua New Guinea.

His prayer requests: 1) Pray for the students so they can remember what they've learned. 2) Pray for the Oum community so they can know the true God.

A big thank you ("bikpela tenkyu") for your prayers and your gift for the ministry!

Eric and Penny Schering